

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

FELTON L. MATTHEWS, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

USA et al.,

Defendants.

3:17-cv-00050-RCJ-VPC

ORDER

This action is a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a state prisoner. On February 16, 2017, this Court issued an order denying Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* because Plaintiff had "three strikes" pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). (ECF No. 3). The Court informed Plaintiff that if he did not pay the \$400.00 filing fee in full within thirty (30) days of the date of that order, the Court would dismiss the action without prejudice. (*Id.* at 2). The thirty-day period has now expired and Plaintiff has not paid the full filing fee of \$400.00.¹

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and "[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal" of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party's failure to prosecute an action, failure

¹ Plaintiff has filed a motion to correct the record. (ECF No. 4). The Court interprets this motion as a motion for reconsideration. In the motion, Plaintiff argues that Count II of his complaint satisfies the imminent danger rule and, thus, the Court should permit Plaintiff to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (*Id.* at 1-3). The Court has re-read Count II and denies the motion for reconsideration. The Court does not find that it committed clear error or that the initial decision was manifestly unjust. See *Sch. Dist. No. 1J v. Acands, Inc.*, 5 F.3d 1255, 1263 (9th Cir. 1993).

1 to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52,
2 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963
3 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring
4 amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal
5 for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of
6 address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for
7 failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986)
8 (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

9 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey a
10 court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors: (1)
11 the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its
12 docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of
13 cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. *Thompson*, 782 F.2d
14 at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130; *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-
15 61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

16 In the instant case, the Court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in
17 expeditiously resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket, weigh
18 in favor of dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs in favor of
19 dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in
20 filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See *Anderson v. Air West*, 542
21 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor – public policy favoring disposition of cases
22 on their merits – is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor of dismissal discussed herein.
23 Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey the court's order will result in
24 dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives" requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262;
25 *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1424. The Court's order requiring
26 Plaintiff to pay the full filing fee within thirty (30) days expressly stated: "IT IS FURTHER
27 ORDERED that this action will be DISMISSED without prejudice unless Plaintiff pays the
28 \$400.00 filing fee in full within thirty (30) days of entry of this order." (ECF No. 3 at 2). Thus,

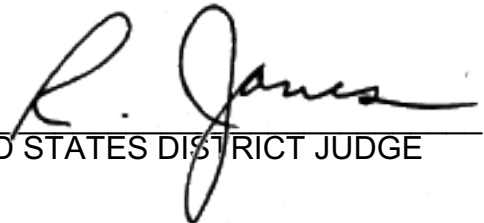
1 Plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from his noncompliance with the
2 Court's order to pay the full filing fee within thirty (30) days.

3 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on Plaintiff's
4 failure to pay the \$400.00 filing fee in compliance with this Court's February 16, 2017, order.

5 It is further ordered that the motion to correct the record (ECF No. 4) is denied.

6 It is further ordered that the Clerk of Court shall enter judgment accordingly.

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8 DATED: This 5th day of April, 2017.

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11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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